

## **NICKS FROM THE BLADE**

**BY**

**ALMA LEWIS JAMES**

This was never meant to be a serious history of Fairbury. For years I had jotted down the stories that I had heard old friends tell, and then, when Ollie's appetite for them became insatiable, it occurred to me to consult the old newspaper files. One volume led to the next, and frankly, I copied just what caught my interest at the moment. Many times there is but a single item about a person. A bit of information that I hadn't known before, and I just put it in – chaff with the wheat.

I stopped at December 31, 1899, not only because it was the turn of the century, but because, in a couple of years, there were two automobiles in Fairbury, Bethards and Dr. Lewis' and they were to inaugurate an entirely new society and mode of life.

Mrs. Lu McDowell Taylor went with me to visit New Salem: that replica of Abraham Lincoln's home town. As we peered in one window after another of the furnished cabins, she said: "You know the only time I feel really old is when I see things that were in common use in our homes when I was a girl, now placed in museums".

More than just the newspaper stories, however, I was interested in the tales that were behind these newspaper items. Three people in particular supplied them: Mrs. P.G. James, Sr., who gave me the bulk of them; Logan Kring, who supplied all of the fire department date, and much about the early churches; and Ruth Taylor. Many of the pictures were loaned by Marjorie Fulton, and D.D. Fultz copied them.

I have had comparatively little leisure for this, for this was done since Phoebe was born; and this I not intended to be in any sense a final history, but merely a somewhat orderly arrangement of miscellaneous material in permanent form.....

**ALMA LEWIS JAMES**

May 3, 1946.

Notes from The Independent Blade

Volume 16: 1876 to June 23, 1877

The Fairbury Journal, 1870 – 1875

The Fairbury Independent, 1871 - 1877

The Independent Blade, 1877 –

The Fairbury Independent, April 20, 1871

Beach and Scott, Dealers in Hardware, Stoves, Imported Guns, Sportsman's Equipment, Doty's Washing Machines, Clothes Wringers, Fine Table and Pocket cutlery, Plated Ware, Woodenware, Tinware, Rope and Pumps, Agricultural Implements.

Livingston County Blade, February 5, 1876

Ad: J. B. Fulton, Physician and Surgeon, Office over Weaver's Clothing Store, Fairbury, Illinois.

Livery Stable,  
James Wade

Fairbury Marble Works,  
Arcade Block

L.P. Straight,  
Carriage and Wagon Works

Wm. Stackpole,  
Real Estate Agent

Misses Wallace and Jones,  
Fashionable Dress,  
Straight Bldg.  
Corner Locust and Fourth Streets

R. Bennett  
Druggist  
Arcade Block

J. Sheaff,  
Guns, Pistols, Sporting Goods,  
Arcade Block

Noxon Bros.,  
Jewelers  
Union Block.  
J.J. Hintz

Saddles and Harness,  
Arcade Block

Porter,  
Saddles and Harness,  
Arcade Block

Wm. Porter,  
Saddles and Harness,  
Union Block

O.P. Ross,  
Justice of Peace,  
Franzen's Hall

W.C. Tresize,  
Photographer, Livingston Square

Straight Building

Nathan Shepherd, Police Magistrate  
H.R. Wood, Homocopathicphysician.  
Smith and Olney, Real Estate

J.F. Moberly,  
Restaurant,  
S. E. Corner Livingston Square

Westervelt and Gravinna,  
Grocery,  
North Side Livingston Square

J.A. Powley,  
Hardware,  
Arcade Block

R.B. Hanna,  
Justice of Peace  
Second Door East of Post Office.

Rayburn and Cruzer,  
Dentists,  
Over Taylor Bros.

Hotels, Livingston House and Fairbury House.

Old Central House is now a boarding house.

## Society

Fairbury Sporting Club, Christmas shoot at Fairground.

Catholic Society, New Year's entertainment.

Fireman's Ball. Hall Tastefully decorated. Radunski's German Band of Chatsworth. "All went merrily as a wedding bell." Gross receipts \$130.

Fairbury Grange.

Amateur Theatrical Troupe entertainment for benefit of library.

Fairbury Lodge I.O.O.F.

Caption: "Shady Side." African M.E. Church organized June 16, 1876.

Chicago and Paducah railroad wreck.

Circus came to town. Took about \$2,000 away from Fairbury in spite of the hard times.

Judge McDowell's residence is quite like the jack knife that had a new blade put in place of the old one, and then a new handle in place of the old one. It is literally blossoming with bay windows and other modern improvements and is hardly recognizable.

A laundress cut her foot in front of Dominy's. Mrs. Dominy gave her some cloths to bind up her foot, and Dr. Fraley was sent for, but he couldn't come as he was helping his wife seed cherries. Dr. Ed Barnes sewed it up.

Zimmerman's Drug Store, 1876.

Fourth of July celebration – Fairbury Cornet Band. Fire Company paraded in their new uniforms.

Fairbury Temperance Society meeting at M. E. Church.

O.P. McDowell Hardware, North Side Livingston Square.

Women's Temperance Union.

Fairbury Band.

1876 They call Dr. Bartlett the "wide gauge doctor."

Doctors announce births in groups.

"Murder" – heading of clothing sale.

Mass Temperance meeting.

Fairbury Union Agricultural Board. (Fair).

April 21, 1877 Mr. and Mrs. T.A. Beach and daughter Ella, and Mrs. L.B. Dominy returned from California.

Mr. C. Claudon received a letter from his brother who went to France. He was ten days on the ocean, and found his parents and friends in good health.

1877 R.C. Huntoon, the artist, is on our streets again this week.

June 29, 1878 Land Buyers Excursion to Kansas. Kinsley and return, \$29.50. 2,500,000 acres of land for sale. Eleven years credit. Fare on A. T. & SF railroad refunded to land buyers.

Parties who have been circulating reports derogatory to the character of my husband and myself, had better beware. The law allows me redress, and I shall not hesitate to take it. Mrs. Patrick Sullivan. (Blade August 3, 1878, she was judged insane and sent to an asylum.)

Thursday evening a number of Miss Lizzie Stilwell's friends gave her a surprise at her residence. Charades, tableaux, etc. were had, and it was unanimously voted a good time.

Arrangements have been made with the Chicago and Paducah road, by which they will run a trail to the Fourth of July Celebration at Pontiac at excursion rates – one fare for round trip. The train will leave this place at 8 o'clock A.M. Returning, it will leave Pontiac at 9:30 P.M.

The balloon ascension Wednesday evening in connection with the Catholic Fair was a success.

Joe Scibirds Zouave Cadets went through some fine military movements Wednesday evening in front of Union Block.

Stealing flowers from cemetery.  
"Cuspidors, plain and fancy, at W. H. Allens."

Abe Filley from Beatrice, Nebraska, arrived in this city via Chicago where he has been delivering several car loads of cattle and hogs from the plains of the West. At Chicago he was joined by the family of his brother, Elijah, and Mrs. Bird, the mother of Mrs. Filley, who had been visiting at Hokah, Minnesota. They are all visiting in this city among relatives and friends this week.

Third Annual Fair. September 10, 11, 12, 13, 1878. Prizes to the best drilled militia companies. 1st prize, a 50 silk flag. 2nd, \$25 bunting flag. Captain Joe H. Scibird's Zouave cadets will drill each day in full uniform. Competition solicited. Best half mile track in the state. "Competition opens to the world." John Virgin, President.

Everybody is going to the picnic tomorrow at Thomas Beach's place near the old saw mill. Conveyances will run every few minutes during the afternoon. Nothing intoxicating will be allowed on the ground. All are invited.

Wade, the livery man, will run buggies and his big blue omnibus to the German picnic tomorrow.

A "prairie schooner" on the westward bound trip, passed thru this city last Saturday. On the cover was this legend: "Indiana has busted us: bound for Kansas."

"Nebraska Colonists." Farms for sale cheap.

Old Settlers Association of Livingston County. All who have lived in the county 15 years are eligible.

On Wednesday John Virgin, Jim Hendrix, Dr. Sam Barnes and Abe Filley, went to the big Vermillion fishing with a seine. They made four hauls and gathered in over 300 lbs. of as nice representatives of the finny tribe as the river affords. Coming home, they distributed fish gratis around town until late in the evening.

Romeo T. Perry. Attorney and Councillor at Law. Office on second floor of Franzen's Building, Fairbury, Illinois.

August 17, 1878 – T.A. Beach and Co. succeeds W.H. Allen in the grocery business. Charley Perlee in the Co. A.M. Burch is the chief clerk and poultry dealer.

Antique pottery, hanging baskets, fresh flour, and specialty made of teas, fresh fruits daily.

There was a select party of young folks at the residence of Thomas Beach, Esq. Tuesday evening.

September 1, 1878 – There was a locomotive elopement on the Chicago and Paducah road at Gibson on Tuesday morning. It came about while the engineer and fireman and the other boys were in the depot "discussing" a stray box of peaches. The engine with steam up stood on the track, detached from the train. The valves opened from some cause, and the "masheen" moved off slowly at first but soon "lit out" at lightning speed with the valves wide open and ran about four miles before it exhausted the steam. Another engine at hand hauled the "elope" back to "business," when the freight started north, arriving at Fairbury three hours behind time. Moral: Never eat peaches.

Abe Filley got home from Nebraska in time to take in the Fair.

A. E. Amsbury, lawyer.

Thomas Beach and lady, and daughter, Ella, and Mrs. L.B. Dominy took advantage of the low excursion rates on the Toledo, Peoria & Western and went to Cincinnati, Ohio, last Tuesday. Mrs. Dominy will extend her visit to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. Miss Ella will remain in Cincinnati and attend a course of studies at the great Musical Conservatory.

November 30, 1878 – Musical Association.

The firemen of our city will give another of their brilliant dances on Christmas Eve.

Walton Bros. put on the road this week, behind a fine black steed, one of the finest delivery wagons ever seen on wheels in this town. Billy Stevens manipulates the ribbons and delivers the goods with lightning rapidity.

Good road to Forrest covered with coal slack.

M.E. sociable will be held at Judge McDowell's residence.

The bank of Bartlett, Beach and Dominy of this city has paid out for corn for S. C. Bartlett and Co. of Peoria \$200,000 the last six months, \$65,000 of which was paid for corn at Burr Oaks.

George Franzen with three girls on his arm, crowding pedestrians off the walk.

A gang of boys from ten years of age upwards are in the habit of playing ball upon the vacant lot south of Tommy Beach's residence. They utterly disregard the fact that a number of respectable people live in that neighborhood. Their language at all times is horribly blasphemous and obscene. We call attention to the matter, hoping that the city authorities will put a period to the nuisance.

For genuine artistic photographs, go to Scibird.

The Christmas service in the M.E. Church will consist of "Christmas Chimes and a tree with presents for the children. Parents will be expected to furnish presents for their own children, as far as possible. Everybody is invited to use the tree as a medium to make presents to their friends. A competent committee will have charge of all articles left with them.

The boys of the T. P. and W. on the east bound freight train Wednesday afternoon created a man from snow gathered from the tops of the cars. They did not dress him in the primitive fig leaf suit, nor did they breathe the breath of life into his body, but they dressed him in an old coat and smoking cap, and set him on top of the cars as a special guard of the train, and when he passed this place, he seemed determined to "freeze" to the job.

Ed A. Scibird. (Assistant Editor.)

Best 2 dollar boots in town – Fairbury Shoe Store.

Professor Harrington, Illusionist and Ventriloquist assisted by Mr. Frank Newhall, pianist, will be in a series of entertainments at Fairbury Hall. On the first night a useful gift will be given to everyone present. (Turned out to be cheap sleeve buttons, shirt studs, and lead pencils.)

Doctors: Pearson, Barnes, Brewer, Fraley, Ostrander, Hudgin, and Bartlett.

Tommy Beach bought a half interest in Bolder Cloyes new car coupler this week. We learn a manufactory will be started at once. Cloyes will travel and sell while Tommy will remain at home – "sold."

The young men, who range themselves in front of the M.E. Church on Sunday evenings and form a lane thru which the audience must pass, ought to have more sense. They make it very unpleasant for ladies unattended by gentlemen, and there has been complaint from that quarter. The smoking and loud talking last Sunday evening by this crowd of young men made one think they were passing thru a bar room. The town authorities have the power, and in justice to church goers ought to disperse this weekly gathering of the mob. If this nuisance is not abated, the names of the loungers will be published.

December 21, 1878 Christmas nick-knacks at Beach and Co.'s grocery.

Professor Vaughan's dancing class.

Fairbury Guards to present a new military drama, "Dutch Recruit" or Drummer Boy."

Washington Society entertainment at Fairbury Hall: "Fifteen Years of the Drunkard's Life."

December 28, 1878 Abe Filley home on a visit from Nebraska.

Fireman's Ball decorated on either side of the gallery with a section of hose trimmed with evergreens. Flags. "Welcome" in evergreens. Pictures of Washington and Lincoln.

(Post office sold tobacco, school and blank books, nice library lamps, best 5 cent cigar in the county, presents for holidays, candy and nuts.)

(Grandfather Beach was not a regular advertiser.)

With close of 1878, Bartlett, Beach and Dominy dissolved because of Dr. Bartlett's ill health.

January 11, 1879 Chicago & Paducah railroad engine knocked a cow off the track with no serious damage to the cow.

In Bloomington they watered the hills and hundreds of ladies and gentlemen, boys, and girls go to slide. Many of the sleds are quite beautiful and expensive. "They go down hill so far nation quick the fellers don't have time to kiss the lady passengers before they strike bottom."  
Burr Oaks had a tin shop and stove store.

January 18, 1879 Drs. Barnes and Hudgin over Zimmerman's Drug Store.

First 10 cent store opened in Bloomington. It was a sensation, and the opening was crowded.

Miss Ella Beach leaves for the Cincinnati College of Music the first of next week.

F. Filley started for Beatrice, Nebraska, last Monday where he is and has been engaged in the purchase of cattle for the Chicago market. He renewed his subscription to the Independent Blade for before going.

On Thursday of last week a few of our young people assembled at the residence of Dr. C.B. Ostrander to celebrate the 53rd birthday of Mrs. Ostrander. An elegant repast was awaiting us on our arrival, such as Mrs. Ostrander knows how to "get up" and we were not long in doing justice to the bivalves, pastry, etc. Song and merriment reigned supreme during the remainder of the evening, and if anyone would grow fat by laughing, they surely would on this occasion. \*\*\*\*\*It was a dry evening, for the Doctor's "Yarns" being considerably below par, which caused him to have quite an elongated countenance. The occasion will not soon be forgotten by those who were there, and we will join in thanking Mrs. Ostrander for the happy occasion, hoping she may have many such to follow.

January 25, 1879 A monster boot does sign duty in front of Heckman's shoe shop.



The town hall was over Kingman's store.

A feeling of insecurity is felt among the owners of property in the city owing to apparent inadequate protection afforded by the fire department. There is no complaint made against the fire company, but it is believed that better protection to property could be had by preparing a better place to keep the engine and hose – a place where the cold weather would not unfit either for use by freezing. At the next meeting of the Board of Trustees the matter will be brought up. Also the matter of pay for the firemen. Every property holder is interested in this matter and should give it some attention.

(Personal Column) Miss Ella Beach started for Cincinnati Wednesday night.

Mr. A.J. Amsbury was home this and last week. He is giving his attention to the insurance business and has been operating for the Continental Company.

Mr. I.P. McDowell and John J. Taylor sold January 21, 1879, 604 acres of the Sullivan land to Hiram Sibley of Rochester, New York, for \$18,000 cash in hand.

Take Warning: Whereas my wife, Luther J. Sterling has left my bed and board without just cause or provocation, I hereby warn all persons not to trust her on my account. In violation of such, you must look to some other source for your "shining halves." Osmer McDowell.

February 1, 1879 Try some of those superb teas and coffees at Beach and Co.'s.

T.S.O. McDowell, more familiarly known as Tommy McDowell, attained his majority last Sunday, and received as a birthday gift from his father, I.P. McDowell, 80 acres of land near Pontiac.

One of the best kept hotels on the line of either railroad passing thru this city is the Fairbury House. In consequence it enjoys a liberal patronage.

February 8, 1879 Bloomington, Peoria, and Springfield are fighting to get the State Fair.

February 15, 1879 H.J. Ramsey, postmaster, introduced patent medicines to his merchandise. Joe Powley of Burr Oaks.

There personal property of the Sullivan Farm is for sale.

Suite Shepherd.

Dr. Brewer also dentist. Homeopathic physician.

(Article of Wabash buying Chicago and Paducah Railroad.)

February 22, 1879 The best working telephone ever put up in this city connects the office of Barnes and Hudgin with Zimmerman's Drug Store. The "masheen" is the result of Dr. Hudgin's mechanical ingenuity, and is the best articulator we have ever seen. Words spoken in the lowest tones at either end of the line are heard with great distinctness at the other end. The connecting line is a good sized twin cord, and to reach the office above, is zigzagged around thru the building a great many feet, and has six bearings before reaching the terminus above. So perfect did it

work Monday evening that even a whisper in the Doctor's office was distinctly heard in the drug store below.

Henry Kingman, hardware dealer.

The president of the Cincinnati College of Music, Miss Dora Nelson, in a letter to Mr. Thomas Beach of this city, speaks in the highest terms of the progress of Miss Ella, his daughter is making in her musical studies. Recently she played before a large audience, on the occasion of the meeting of the YMCA of Cincinnati, acquitting herself splendidly, calling out complimentary notices in the daily papers the following morning. The many friends of Miss Beach, in this city, will be pleased to hear of her success.

Joe Scibird, the photographer.

WCTU directors: Mrs. John Decker, Mrs. O.P. McDowell, Mrs. L.B. Dominy, Mrs. John Virgin.

Stationery, school books and school furnishing goods, Ramsey's Post Office Store.

March 1, 1879 Name Fairbury Hall dropped, and DuBois's "Opera House" will take place. "More dignified and metropolitan."

March 18, 1879 (ad) T.A. Beach & Co. comes again to the front with a choice Japan tea dust at 25 cents. A boss bargain in a 35 cent or 3 pounds for a dollar Japan tea. Try them once.

Operations by doctors reported with details. Also illnesses.

Abe Filley arrived home from Nebraska Tuesday night.

N.A. Fugate of Hastings, Nebraska, arrived Thursday evening in time to attend the funeral of his sister, Mrs. J.W. McDowell.

(No obituaries yet)

March 29, 1879 Franzen's saloon was newly painted, papered, and varnished this week. Langabeer did the job, and it's a good one.

April 19, 1879 Frank Franzen, Joseph Rettenmayer and Laubenheimer and Werling had some very pretty designs of fly paper put in their places of business.

J.E. Lewis bought a very fine phaeton.

A "donation surprise party," wheelbarrow of "substantials."

Straight's meal and feed mill.

The heavy rains of last week filled the cellar of James McDowell's new building quite full of water. The boys made a raft of timbers and had some rare sport floating around for a day or two.

April 26, 1879 Henry Kingman has a new covered wagon, gaudily painted and lettered. It drives through the country selling tin ware.

Wilson's adjustable chair for invalids. "Major part of \$100."

J.E. Lewis bought a fine buggy horse.

May 3, 1879 One more telephone line. Runs from Kellers Grocery Store to Stoller and Inions.

## ALLEGED ABDUCTION.

### An Infernal Outrage.

Last Saturday, States Attorney Murdock received information that a chaste young woman had been decoyed to the bagnio of Leonard Gardner, and was detained there against her will, for the purpose of forcing her into prostitution. In the evening Mr. Murdock dispatched Z.T. Hanna and D.A. Fraley to Gardner's house to ascertain the facts. They had considerable difficulty in getting the desired information, as Gardner refused to let them see or talk with the young lady, but by a little strategy they finally succeeded in getting an interview with the girl, who gave her name as Annie Manning, from Wapella, DeWitt County, this state. She was found to be very much frightened and grieved at the situation she had been placed in.

### She Stated

that Mollie Stewart, an inmate of the Gardner house, who is her cousin, had written to her saying that a situation could be got for her in this city, at a hotel, to wait on table, for which \$3 a week would be paid. Not knowing that Mollie had gone to the everlasting bad, and believing it to be as represented, she wrote, accepting the position of waiter, as offered. On Friday night of last week, she arrived in town and was

### Met at Depot by Gardner

and the girl Stewart, and taken to the bagnio outside the northwest limits of the city, where to her grief and mortification, she discovered the true character of the house and inmates. She further stated she was detained there against her will – that efforts had been made by threats and otherwise,

### To Force Her into Prostitution,

which she had resisted, and wanted to leave the house, but had fears of her life, if she attempted to do it without friends to accompany her. Having learned this much, Fraley and Hanna returned to town and a State's Warrant for the persons of Leonard Gardner and Mollie Stewart was sworn out by E.T. Hanna, who, as constable, accompanied by D.A. Fraley and John Allum, proceeded about 11 o'clock at night to make the arrest. When informed of the business, Gardner swore he would not be arrested, and ran upstairs, at the head of which he stopped,

## Drew a Pistol, and Swore He Would Kill Hanna

if he made an attempt to arrest. A rush was made by Allum, Hanna and others to the top of the stairs. Gardner retreated to the end of the hall, where he stood at bay, with pistol in hand, swearing he would kill the man who attempted to arrest him. At this juncture, John Allum suddenly presented a cocked pistol into the face of Gardner, and ordered him to drop his pistol, which he did in short order, and subsequently gave up the pistol to Allum. The arrest was then made by Hanna. After some considerable "palavering," Gardner gave his gold watch and chain as security for his appearance in the court of Squire Hanna, Monday morning. The girl (Miss Manning) was then taken away, and placed in keeping of Marshal Allum, at his residence on Third Street, where she remained until Tuesday.

## The Prisoners

took a change of Venue from Hanna's court to Squire Shepherd where they waived examination, and entered in bonds to appear at the May term of the Circuit Court. One great mistake was made when the girl was taken away from the sink of iniquity that her trunk was not also taken, as Miss Manning claims the trunk was broken open and robbed of letters which would have been evidence in the trial.

## Deep Indignation

was expressed by most all classes of citizens, at the dastardly and vicious attempt to ruin an innocent girl. Some of the best citizens, feeling that the law could hardly punish the outrage as it deserved, expressed the belief that nothing but the court of Judge Lunch would ever rid this community of the vile den where such wrongs could be attempted or perpetrated. Certain it is the patience of our people will not tolerate the nuisance much longer, judging from the feeling expressed on Monday when the prospect seemed fair that the guilty parties where likely to go unwhipped of justice.

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May 3, 1879 Miss Ella Beach arrived home from Cincinnati on Tuesday morning and will remain for some months. Miss Beach made rapid progress in her studies during her absence.

May 10, 1879 Thomas Beach and family will go to Chicago for a week's visit on Tuesday.

The Soires Dansant of Professor Vaughan's dancing class. "At 9:30 Professor Vaughan called parts for the grand march." Costumes rich and elegant, most of them having been prepared for the occasion. "Most delightful hop that Fairbury has known for many years."

\$250 Reward offered for information that will lead to the arrest and conviction of the party who fired the dwelling of Mr. Conn.

J. S. Harris, Chicago.

Mrs. Zane, Milliner.

May 17, 1879 A rumor of gold along the Mackinaw River near Delavan caused much excitement.

(McDowell) Boys and “tony” young men are disturbing the M. E. Church and Sunday school services.

### Big Business

Since the first of December, the banking house of Beach and Dominy have paid on account of S. C. Bartlett and Co., grain buyers of Peoria, the sum of \$220,945. Of this amount, \$37,944.15 was paid to the agency at Burr Oaks; \$17,460 at Gibson; \$27,755 at Strawn, and \$55,579 in this city. The remainder has been paid at other stations on this road. This is the largest amount that Beach and Dominy have paid on S.C. Bartlett and Co.’s account in the same number of months since they began doing business for them.

De Wolf’s Drug Store, Union Block.

A. Dahler, Carriage and Wagon Mfg., opposite Wade’s Stable.

May 24, 1879 Ed Scibird of the Blade got married.

Women’s Christian Temperance Union Fair and Festival. A begonia for “best natured married lady.” Contest quite spirited. – between Mrs. Decker and Mrs. L.B. Dominy. Former won. The begonia was an artificial piece of workmanship of great beauty. A sofa pillow was awarded the homeliest man. It went to John Virgin: no contest.

Sheriff Hunter was in town, Monday, gathering in the boys for witnesses at the Gardner trial Tuesday. When Mr. Hunter gets after them, they have to go, and there’s no use trying to dodge him.

### Take Care of the Boys.

If you would keep your boys from temptation, keep them at home at night. Parents who permit their children to run the streets at night must not be shocked if they develop into the worst kind of characters. It is on the streets at night, uncurbed by proper influences, that the germs of the future criminal are planted. We have seen little boys, scarcely seven years of age, “whooping” around the streets at 9 or 10 o’clock at night, all seasons of the year. Any night, dozens of boys of all ages may be seen tearing around in squads, like a parcel of young Arabs. Parents, who permit their boys to run wild on the street, do not discharge their duties to them or to the public. Take warning, and keep your boys at home at nights.

May 31, 1879 New York Dry Goods Store opened.

Strawberry and cream festival at Opera House. (Cake served.) Song and Chorus. Readings from Byron and Thomas Moore’s poems. Finale, song “The Harp That Once Through Tara’s Hall.”

June 7, 1879 School closed last Friday.

Sodas for a nickel at Jake Thornton’s.

Wolf Hunt at Avoca.

June 14, 1879 "If you want to make a 'big mash' on the girls, get yourself a satin handkerchief, dregs of wine color. You can buy them in Peoria for \$15 cents a bushel. Get one; they're 'tony'."

Strawberries 7 cents a quart.

Mrs. Oliver obtained a divorce from Franklin Oliver, 94 years old, in the Circuit Court this week. Adultery, desertion, failure to provide for his family for the past 10 years. He confessed it was true. The Court gave the divorced wife 400 acres of Oliver's estate in fee simple. She was Oliver's third wife whom he married when she was 16 – he 65. The minor children, the youngest 8, were given to the mother.

Abe Filley returned to Nebraska.

The managers of the Chicago and Paducah railroad and C. P. and S. W. railroad have but a short time to make arrangements of their affairs, or the road will be sold. The receiver's term (2 years) expires on the 22nd inst for the Paducah and on the 28th for the Pekin road.

Lorenzo Beach's second wife known as "Auntie Beach."

On last Friday and Saturday the Gardner troupe of prostitutes shipped themselves and furniture to more congenial climes. Report says that they went to Alton. They have gone and it is to stay, it is hoped. States Attorney Murdock and C.C. Strawn, Esp. have the hearty thanks of the better part of this community for the vigorous and effective prosecution of Gardner and he crew, which resulted in breaking up the establishment, sending to prison and driving away the entire lot.

June 28, 1879 Dr. Kimball's Drug Store.

On Monday night, the basement of Tommy Beach's residence was entered by thieves and everything in the way of cooked provisions and eatables generally, and a couple of Mr. Beach's shirts which were in the wash, were taken. The Job was done very quietly, as the inmates of the house knew nothing of the depredations until next morning. There was no clue to their hungry thieves that we have heard of.

Thomas Beach, John Beers, Henry Kingman, Hiel J. Ramsey and John Morris went to Chicago on business this week.

July 5, 1879 10 cent store in Fairbury.

Did you celebrate the gal-lo-hic-rious- Fourth? Or did you confine yourself to lemonade?

Last Saturday night a number of boys, about half a dozen, of 10 to 15 years of age, "tackled" a couple of boys from the country, in the vicinity of Zimmerman's Drug Store and got beautifully thrashed. The "town boys" thought they had an easy job to "get away" with the young grangers, but when the battle was over the grangers were "masters of the situation." Perhaps the little town lads will let the country boys alone in the future. Their punishment was well merited. About half a dozen small boys rang the fire alarm on the bell at the north side school house yesterday morning, and were put in the cooler for their trouble.

The charivari Monday night with fife drums, violins, tin pans and old boots, was a dreadful racket, long drawn out, and was heard all over town. Have mercy on the citizens, boys, and don't do so again.

"Basket meeting" in the grove near Union Church south of town. Elder Thompson preached.

July 12, 1879 George Franzen leaves the Blade as compositor to open a new drug store with H.J. Ramsey in McDowell's new building.

Some of our citizens are credulous enough to believe the flood of water that fell this week was the result of the protracted Temperance Meetings in progress at the Opera House.

Fox chase at Fairgrounds today.

O.H.P. McDowell, a "strawberry blonde" postal clerk with headquarters in Chicago.

July 17, 1879

#### A Knock-Down

Last Week, Charles Hanley, a farmer, came to town, and filled up with "tanglefoot," and coming across "Nigger Dick," began imposing on him, first at Westervelt's store, when Dick got away from him; then again at Rowley's livery stable, using the old colored bootblack pretty roughly. This time he got loose from Hanley, and hit him with a stone, or brick and ran away, Hanley following. Dick passed him down Virgin's alley and came out on the street, and was standing in front of Katz's store, when Hanley got sight of him, and giving him chase, ran him around King and Robinson's office, on and across the T. P. & W. platform, to Third Street, then northward, and overtook him near the engine house. When he began an assault on his victim, kicking and striking him, John Virgin was in the large crowd that had gathered, and tried to prevail on Hanley to let Dick go, and caught Hanley's arm as he was in the act of striking.

This caused the assaulting party to strike at Virgin. Virgin then caught Hanley by the shoulders and threw him heavily on the platform in front of the engine house, his face striking the sharp edge of a plank, cutting a gash. Virgin slapped him over the head and gave him a couple of kicks in the ribs. Hanley then got up and made at Virgin, who pushed him back. After this some words passed, and Hanley gave the lie, when he received a blow from Virgin that landed him on the platform. This closed the knocking. Virgin retired to the post office building and Hanley remained in the street swearing and ranting like a mad man.

Officer Allum came upon the scene at this point and ordered Hanley to stop his racket, which he refused to do, and was arrested and taken before Squire Shepherd, where he gave bonds for his appearance next day. The excitement ran pretty high, in the large crowd that the rumpus drew together, and sharp criticisms were made on Virgin for treating Hanley so severely, seeing he was pretty "full." But when it was known that Hanley had persistently followed Dick, with the avowed intention of killing him, and having been the aggressor from the beginning, the feeling was modified.

Hanley did not put in an appearance until Tuesday, when, being sober, he called upon Virgin and talked the matter over, confessed that he was in the wrong, and expressed regret that it had occurred. An amicable feeling was established between them, and together they repaired to the "Captain's Office," and settled up for breach of the peace, Virgin paying both fines. Hanley has sworn off drinking any more benzene, which is a very sensible conclusion.

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July 26, 1879 George Franzen got another perfumed letter.

Gibson Bakers, pound loaves of bread at 2 cents each.

Tommy Beach has contracted with Mr. Russell to build a new barn for him. The building will be 20 feet by 26 feet, and first class in all its details.

Prof. Vaughan to organize a first class brass band.

August 9, 1879 Beach and Dominy purchased 15 carloads of hard coal, delivered off the track at \$5.50 a ton. It was the largest amount of hard coal brought to this city. (Probably more needed.)

Certain young men, not having well defined convictions of right and wrong, and not having the fear of the law before them, have, at diver's times, torn down and destroyed business signs, and changed signs from one business house to another, much to the annoyance of those interested. It seems to be about time that such operations were stopped, and the question has been asked "Why don't the Marshal stop it?" We do not know why he does not, but suppose he does not catch the perpetrators in the act.

Seventh Day Adventist Camp Meeting.

Dr. Ed Barnes – Dr. Sam Barnes.

Our friend, Tommy Beach, has been adding some valuable volumes to his library recently, among which is "Picturesque America," beautifully bound morocco. The engravings of this work are of the best, and show the various points of interest throughout our beloved country.

By reference to a notice in another column of this paper, it will be seen that the firm of T.A. Beach and Co., Grocers, is dissolved, Charles L. Perlee succeeding to the business of the late firm. The firm of T.A. Beach & Co. has been in business just a year, and during that time has maintained a prosperous and growing business, and has become one of the leading grocery firms in the city. Mr. Perlee, who was the "Co." of the firm, and now its successor, is a young man of good business qualifications, and only lacks a helpmeet to insure success in his new departure. We understand, however, that negotiations are pending by which even this bar to prosperity will be removed at an early day. So mote it be.

(Short obituaries among news items.)

Firm of Barnes and Hudgin dissolved.



August 16, 1879 Dr. Bartlett built an addition to his barn last week.

Dr. Bartlett purchased last week for his son-in-law, J.E. Lewis, the Pickering place of 160 acres, part of the old Best farm lands, near Chatsworth. This farm is well improved, and is every inch the best of tillable land. The price per acre, including the present crop, is a little less than half its real value. The lands were sold by the receiver of the Burr estate.

Dr. Hudgins is now over C.E. Fawkner's harness shop.

Pontiac Fair a week later than the Fairbury Fair.

Ladies Temperance Union.

Barnes Bros., Physicians and surgeons, revived. (Sick brother back from the West.)

Uncle Tom's Cabin meeting.

Man gunning for A.B. Claudon put into an asylum.

August 23, 1879 Tommy Beach has been tiling his farms north and south of town. The best improvement possible for almost every farm. Everybody finds it pays to drain his land.

Wednesday evening the large lamp usually suspended on the outside of the T.P.&W. depot burst and scattered oil on the sidewalk, and in a twinkling it was all afire. Vigorous work, however, by the operators at the depot extinguished the flames and saved the building, but it was a close call.

A new heating furnace was put in T.A. Beach's house this week, whereby the whole establishment will be warmed without the use of stoves.

September 6, 1879 Those who have use for good building stone should read the ad of T.A. Beach in another column, and call on him at his bank.

(Accidents and illnesses reported with the names of the Doctors.)

Ramsey busy with the Post Office and a new drug store.

Miss Anna Stackpole went to attend St. Mary's school at Knoxville, this state.

September 13, 1879 Since the removal of the Chicago and Paducah office from the Fairbury House, the room formerly occupied by them has been turned into an office for the hotel. The partition has been removed and the counter set in, so that the office and baggage is separated from the main room. The improvement is a good one and adds to the appearance of the house.

September 20, 1879 Reverend Hempstead and Reverend C.D. Merit.

There was a cotillion party at the residence of Mrs. Gorback Tuesday evening. About twelve couples participated in the hop. Supper was served during the evening.

The calaboose was pretty well filled last week with violators of the law, mostly boys from abroad, who were here during the fair doing light pilfering and pocket picking. These latter were kept until the Fair was over, then let loose and ordered out of town.

Hoop skirts, latest styles, at W.H. Taylor's.

October 4, 1879 William Case – Wright Elopement – Flora and Pinkie

Jewish clothing store – H. & M. Katz.

Railroad restaurant.

October 11, 1879 Henry Kingman moved into his new house last week. His residence is one of the finest in the city.

Judgement for the plaintiff has been rendered in the case of the trustees of the M.E. Church of this city against the estate of Dr. Beach, deceased, for \$666 to cover the balance of the subscription to the church building fund. The case will be carried to the higher court on appeal.

Pumpkin throwing and rotten egg throwing is the gentlemanly amusement of some of our young men.

#### Sunday School Concert.

The Sunday School concert at the M.E. Church last Sunday evening was a decided success. The church was filled with people, almost to overflowing and while listening to the essays, dialogues, etc., by the young folks, the audience seemed intently interested, and the room, though packed with people, was almost quiet enough to have heard the dropping of a pin. The little folks, as well as the older ones, did remarkably well. The essays were good, and the little songs and pieces by the children were well given. Mr. Olney and Mrs. Dr. Brewer are deserving of great credit for their untiring efforts in making it the success it was. Mrs. Brewer led the singing by the school, and we have seldom, if ever, heard a whole school sing with as much spirit and precision. The entire program was a good one, and those who attended the entertainment passed a pleasant evening.

Men's suits at Katz's from \$4 up. Boys' suits from \$3 up.

Go to Walton's 5 and 10 counter and buy notions from 5 to 75 percent cheaper than the same good can be had elsewhere.

October 18, 1879 George Kring family took over Central House. (Hotel)

Will Nimmo and E. Dickson families fight.

Rules and regulations of Fairbury schools.

The originate – musical instrument – perforated paper, turns with a crank.

October 25, 1879 Brass band organized; Alf Jones, Sam Greenbaum, George Franzen, C.W. Faulkner, Z.T. Hanna, Lat Kring, Alf Powley, and Willie Casey. New music received and practice begun.

Mrs. Kelley, Milliner.

Straight's mill.

November 1, 1879 J.E. Lewis bought another fine carriage horse.

The town was filled with tramps two or three days the early part of this week. Fifteen or twenty of them were camped at the railroad crossing west of the central coal shaft. They built a fire of old railroad ties. To these vagabonds may be laid the small thefts and burglaries committed the past week. Our citizens should not encourage these worthless fellows by feeding them.

"Pinafore" at the Opera House. "New scenery, including a real live ship, full rigged."

November 18, 1879 Willie Casey, drummer in band.

There was a party of Young folk at the residence of Henry Kingman Friday night of last week. About a quarter of a hundred were in attendance.

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Chateau de Walton

Isaac Walton moves into his new residence on North First Street.

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Colored M.E. concert at the Opera House – melodies of slave plantations.

November 15, 1879 Wm T. Stackpole to give a series of lectures, first at DuBois' Opera House on Darien Canal." If it meets with approbation and support, others will follow.

A chewing gum lottery came off at Moberly's restaurant Thursday in which Henry Jackson drew a catch valued at \$11.

Dr. Pearson.

November 22, 1879 Names of tardy scholars to be printed.

Colored concert. Principal play written expressly for the occasion – a burlesque tragedy on the Ku Klux Klan.

November 29, 1879 Burr Oaks is to have a newspaper. Its Publication will commence about the middle of next month.

New dancing class. "The success of the club dancing under the direction of Professor Vaughan, last winter is proof of his ability to teach the art terpsichorean."

Ladies Temperance Union Carpet Ball Sociable. Every lady takes a ball made for rag carpet with her name inside. Balls are afterwards sold to the gentlemen, who unwind them. Then he escorts the lady of the name to supper of oysters, hot coffee and cake.

December 6, 1879 The autograph mania is raging among the little boys and girls of this city, and miniature albums are in demand, as well as names to fill them.

Gambling den over Claudon's Grain Elevator.

December 13, 1879 John Vail, Jr., Charles Vail fight with George Becker, a half-witted German.

December 20, 1879 Burr Oaks Index. Five column quarter paper "small place like Burr Oaks."

December 27, 1879 Page de Foie Gras will completely eradicate dandruff from your hair. Try it, at Keck's barber shop.

H.J. Ramsey – elegant piece of historical statuary – a Rogers group – Lincoln, Stanton and Grant.

Miss Ella Beach returned from the Jacksonville Conservatory of Music last week accompanied by Miss May Ballard of Hastings, Nebraska, pupil of the same institution. They will remain during the holiday vacation.

### A Family Tree

Old Santa Claus assembled the families of Mr. Thomas Beach, Dr. C.C. Bartlett, Mr. L.B. Dominy, and Mr. J.E. Lewis, all relatives, at the residence of Mr. Beach on Christmas Day, where the question of turkey was discussed at noon, after which old Mr. Santa Clause shook down numerous valuable gifts from the big Christmas tree planted for the occasion, among which were a dozen pieces of silverware, a diamond ring (for Miss Ella Beach, worth \$100), a half dozen life-sized portraits, and the title to a magnificent upright piano (a present to Mrs. Lewis from her husband) and a gold hunting case watch. This was a very happy assembly and over \$1,000.00 in presents was made.

Professor Grafton principal of schools.